

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 7, 2004, has been received and carefully considered. In this response, Applicant has provided responses to the Examiner's request for information under 37 C.F.R. §1.105.

I. **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

The Examiner requests that Applicant and the assignee provide responses (e.g. agree or disagree) to the following requests for information that the Examiner has determined are reasonably necessary to the examination of this application:

1. *The following were conventional methods in the field of processing or generating field documents at the time of the filing date of this invention.*

RESPONSE: Applicant notes that the following recitations were taken from the pending claims. Applicant disagrees and respectfully submits that, reading the claims as a whole, none of the following claim recitations were conventional methods in the field of processing or generating field documents at the time of the filing date of this invention.

2. *The following were conventional methods automated with the aid of a computer processor and/or performed electronically.*

RESPONSE: Applicant disagrees and respectfully submits that, reading the claims as a whole, none of the following claim recitations were conventional methods automated with the aid of a computer processor and/or performed electronically.

a. Receiving an initiation document containing requirement information with respect to the trade operation, the initiation document being a buy order or a letter of credit.

b. Verifying the accuracy of these trade documents.

- c. Maintaining a customer profile containing standard terms and conditions used by the buyer.
- d. Generating letters of credit based on information previously received.
- e. Issuing letters of credit.
- f. Maintaining a status of the trade operation in a database.
- g. Providing access to the buyer and seller to the database in order to view the status of their trade operation.
- h. Providing the buyer and seller access to the trade status database.
- i. Providing access to the database to additional parties designated by the buyer and seller.
- j. Receiving multiple purchase orders from the buyer and generating the Letter of Credit based on information received prior to receiving the multiple purchase orders.
- k. Generating a sales order in response to an initiation document.
- l. Generating a sales order based on information received prior to receipt of the sales order.
- m. Determining the availability of the credit using a sales order.
- n. Comparing a sales order to the requirement information contained in a file in order to determine any discrepancies; and correcting the sales order.
- o. Generating a manufacturing specification sheet using the sales order.
- p. Comparing the manufacturing specification sheet to a matched sales order in order to determine any discrepancies.
- q. Generating shipping instructions using a sales order and transmitting the shipping instructions to a shipper.

- r. Generating an invoice.
- s. Comparing the invoice to the matched sales order in order to determine any discrepancies.
- t. Receiving shipping instructions from a shipper.
- u. Comparing the shipping instructions to the matched invoice in order to determine any discrepancies.
- v. Informing the shipper of the discrepancies.
- w. Receiving a certificate of insurance from the insurer.
- x. Notifying parties specified by the buyer and the seller of the generation of the trade documents.
- y. Presenting the trade documents to the buyer for negotiation.
- z. Performing a reconciliation function on behalf of the buyer.
- aa. Performing a reconciliation function on behalf of the further comprises the step of reconciling a payment due under the trade documents against the requirement information.
- bb. Receiving payment information reflecting a payment made by the buyer, the seller; and performing a reconciliation function on behalf of the seller in response to the payment information.
- cc. Presenting the trade documents to a bank representing the buyer for negotiation.
- dd. Printing the documents at a location which is in proximity to the bank.

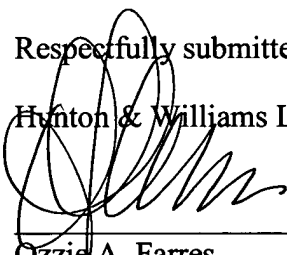
II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed

telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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